



SANDYPINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

FOOTPRINTS

OCTOBER 2025

IN THE SAND



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MemberService@SandyPines.com

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Paul Schaaf, Security Services Manager

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Abby Greenfield.....Ext. 800
Recreation@SandyPines.com

Lake Monterey Golf 616.896.8118

Dave Ingles, Manager
www.lakemontereygolf.com
Golf@golflmgc.com

Laundromat Hours – Open 24 Hours

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Jeff Sweitzer Park President
Kimberly Williams Finance & Accounting
Steve Deyarmond Emergency Services
Ben Fifelski Maintenance
Dave Ingles Lake Monterey
Golf Course

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janele Tomes Camping
Ian Mitchell Communications
Chet Ryan..... Park & Garden Manager
Dale Yoder Food Operations Manager
Jim Buchanan..... Park Inspector
Paul Schaaf Security Services
Abby Greenfield..... Recreation

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance..... Ginny Hager
Golf Course Joe Zomerlei
Long Range Planning..... Kevin Hager
Rules Kelly Johnson
Safety & Security..... Rick Ives
Lake Study..... Valerie Troschinetz
Library..... Patience Pike

OUR MISSION

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RETAIL SERVICES

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Therapeutic Center..... 616-422-7909
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Dairy Dip 616.405.5643
Park & Garden Store 616.896.9334
Park & Garden
Rental Office 616.896.9888

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Berens.....(2028)
Rick Day, Secretary(2026)
Pat Doezeema.....(2026)
Kolyn Giebel(2028)
Ginny Hager, Treasurer(2027)
Kelly Johnson(2028)
Larry Munger(2027)
Craig Van Beek, Chairperson.....(2026)
Scot Wyman, Vice Chairperson.....(2027)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

The Sandy Pines Board of Directors
will provide positive leadership and
management direction so as to ensure
the long term viability and success of
Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc.



PARK PRESIDENT NEWS

BY JEFF SWEITZER

Jeff@SandyPines.com

Well, we made it! The Tigers are in the playoffs again this year, just barely! I guess we can call it a good baseball season. There is no guessing for our Sandy Pines season! We had another great season. Thank you to all who made the 2025 season memorable! It's hard to see our friends from the season stop into the office to say "see ya next season". It does give us something to look forward to during the off-season. Below are some highlights for this month. We also encourage you to read each of our department articles for additional information this month.

Board of Directors' Executive Committee & Meeting

During the September Board of Directors Meeting, the board selected their Executive Committee representatives. Per our bylaws, this process takes place yearly, where board members volunteer and/or nominate their peers. Congratulations to new Board Chair Craig VanBeek and returning executive committee members Vice Chair Scot Wyman, Secretary Rick Day, and Treasurer Ginny Hager. We are excited for Craig's leadership in 2026, as there remains much to do for our park. We look forward to another awesome season of working together to serve this wonderful park we have been blessed to lead.

On October 8, 2025, the board is meeting in Closed Session to address litigation, personnel matter, and/or member discipline. We will meet in the North Shore Building. This meeting will have an abbreviated agenda, but members are welcome to attend the open portion of the meeting. We will be finalizing next year's board meeting dates over the next few months. Our off-season board meeting is targeted for January 2026. Stay tuned for updates.

Capital Investment Fund

Investing in the future is an important step, whether it is with your faith, family, finances, kids' education, local community, or here at Sandy Pines. We are approaching a critical time at Sandy Pines where our current 10-year Capital Reserve Fund, approved by our membership in 2017/2018, expires. These funds are utilized to invest in our park's infrastructure and are needed to ensure we can extend our blessings to the next generation of Sandy Pines families.

During this off-season, we will be developing surveys to submit to our membership to engage your thoughts on our needs, wants, and park projects. Please keep your eyes out for these surveys. It is important that our members have a voice in what the future will look like at Sandy Pines. Based on member responses, we will be working with our selected engineering firm, Wightman Engineering, and our Sandy Pines cross-functional team to develop rendering drawings, costs, and estimated timelines to achieve identified projects.

Our plan for the 2026 Sandy Pines season is to hit the ground running with townhalls the entire season, leading up to a board decision to place a new Capital Investment Fund resolution on the 2026 Sandy Pines ballot. Members would vote on the resolution in August 2026.

The time is now to invest in our park that we have been blessed to enjoy. We have all seen our individual memberships increase in value based on the park investing in our infrastructure, adding amenities, and events. Our investment decision will impact current and future generations at Sandy Pines. Let's pull together to make this happen!

Park Inspector Office

Our park inspector office will return to its off-season hours. What does this mean? The park inspector's office will be closed during the off-season except for any emergencies. During our end-of-year Contractors meeting, we not only thanked our Contractors for an awesome 2025 season, but we also communicated changes for 2026 as well as off-season expectations. For more information, please see the park inspector's update later in these Footprints.

Thank You's

With this month marking the end of another fantastic season, we need to extend many Thank You's. Thank you to our staff! We continue to be blessed with an awesome, talented team! Many Thanks to the entire team, CC cleaners, grounds and maintenance team, pump out team, public safety, recreation, member service, finance, communication, human resources, sales and camping teams, and our golf course. All of you are true blessings to our park. You are valued and appreciated! This Team worked tirelessly this season to serve our members. If you have an opportunity to see our staff prior to leaving this off-season, please express your heartfelt Thank You and gratitude. We also extend a Thank You to our Board of Directors for their continued support. We are truly blessed!

Finally, please accept my Thank You for allowing me to lead our staff and serve this great park. Our 2025 season went smoothly. This has a lot to do with everyone working together! Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am truly honored to work here, and although I understand I will not please everyone, my goal will always be to do what is in the best interest of the park. Thank you for your support and for this great opportunity to serve. We wish all of you a safe and awesome off-season.

Enjoy the off-season. For those traveling to their long-distance locations, please travel safely! We pray for your safe return and a blessed off-season.

God Bless!

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:7-8

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

PSALM 91:4



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MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY NICHOLE MILBOCKER MemberService@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8 am to 4 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Contact Information

Phone: 616-896-8315 x 0
Fax: 616-896-7409
Email: MemberService@SandyPines.com

Important Dates

OCTOBER 1 Beginning of 2026 Season & Rates
OCTOBER 4 Fall Fest
OCTOBER 6 Camping & Flea Market Reservations Open 2026
OCTOBER 13 -17 Last Week of Scheduled Pump outs
OCTOBER 15 Water Turns Off & Seasonal CC's Close for Season
OCTOBER 22 Last Day for Emergency Pump-outs
(Emergency Rate)
OCTOBER 25 Membership Account Balances Due
OCTOBER 31 Halloween
NOVEMBER 1 Boats & Docks must be removed from Lake

Well, here we are folks it's the end of another great season here at Sandy Pines. We aren't going to say goodbye, we'll just say see you later. You will all be missed this winter. Thank you for another great season together of fun in the sun...in our Happy Place! As you leave and close for the season here are a few things to keep in mind.

Mail/Mailroom

Complete all your final mail and packages change of addresses. This takes approximately two weeks to process. Reminder-the Mailroom will lock for the season on October 15th. All unclaimed mail and packages will be returned. Please double-check before leaving for the season.

Pump Outs

Schedule your final pump outs asap as pump outs end the week of the 13th. Remember to schedule your pump out on the correct day for your phase. All same-day pump outs incur an emergency fee.

Winterization

Get your form at Member Service and complete it today. If the Maintenance team is full, please check the registered contractors list for assistance.

Facility Rentals

Schedule now and get in your last get-together, as all facility rentals close for the season on October 14th.

For all North Shore Rentals, Call the Administration Office 616-896-8315 ext. 800 Abby* (NOTE: North Shore Rental is available year-round)

Portal

If you're having trouble with your portal, please contact us, we are here to help. Don't forget, even in the off-season your portal will be a beneficial tool; you can make changes to your membership, complete renewals, and even pay on your account. Please let us know if you need assistance with set-up, and/or resets, again we can help.

Annual Dues

2026 season has started! That means it's dues time again. We are happy to say the dues only had an increase of \$46 for a total of \$2546. The breakdown is as follows.

2026 Annual SPWT Dues	\$1,498
2026 Annual SPWT Capital	248
2026 Annual LMGC Dues	100
2026 Annual LMGC Capital	25
Total Dues/Capital	\$1,871

2026 Annual TV and Internet*	475
Capital Reserve Fund Assessment (9 of 10)***	200
Total 2026 Dues & Assessments	\$2,546

Payments are due by the 25th of each month. If you are utilizing the monthly payment option, please make sure your balance is at or below the allowed monthly amount. The breakdown of the 6 month payment plan is as follows:

Monthly Payment \$440.28
(Plus 1.5% interest on the unpaid monthly balance)

Monthly Maximum Balance

October 25	\$2,105.72
November 25	\$1,697.03
December 25	\$1,282.20
January 25	\$861.15
February 25	\$433.79
March 25	\$0.00

Payments

Numerous different payment options are accepted. Pay in person throughout the year at Member Service, all US currency is accepted as well as check, money order or credit card. All in person payments avoid any credit card surcharge, those payments can be made anytime at Member Service or at the Public Safety Office. You may also pay by credit card, via your portal or by calling Member Service (616-896-8315) A 3% credit card surcharge will apply.

NOTE MEMBERS: The \$1.50 balance on emailed statements- PLEASE disregard. This is an AI generated message. Please always open up the emailed statement for the actual account balance.

Convenience Centers Open for the Winter (CC)

Open Until It Snows

CC 4
CC 7/ Phase 1 Pavilion
CC 8

Open All Winter

CC 2
CC 5
CC 12
Water Park
North Shore Center

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS Kim@SandyPines.com

August 2025 Financial Update

The most recent financial statements for August 2025, covering both Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails (SPWT) and Lake Monterey Golf Course (LMGC), have been approved and are now available on the Finance page at www.sandypines.com. Below is a summary of the financial status as we approach the close of the fiscal year.

Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails (SPWT)

- **Operations Cash:** \$2.8 million
- **Capital Cash:** \$1.736 million (most of which will be transferred to support operating expenses for completed and capitalized projects)
- **Net Income:** \$255,594, compared to \$593,103 at the same time last year
- **Decrease of \$337,509**, primarily due to:
 - **Facility Rentals** – Lower this year
 - **Newsletter Advertising** – Increased ad sales but higher expenses
 - **Tree Removal** – Up \$34,000 from last year due to storm cleanup and safety work
 - **Social Activities** – Increased \$19,000 with expanded senior adult programming.
 - **Utilities** – Up \$243,000, mainly from extended pumping to manage lake levels and higher seasonal usage
 - **Lake Maintenance** – Up \$150,000, driven by lake maintenance completed last fall.
 - **Professional Services** – Up \$22,000 from last year and \$117,000 over budget due to one-time projects (software system implementations, infrastructure review, EGLE assessments)
 - **Property Tax & Depreciation** – Continuing to rise with improved infrastructure.
 - **Retail Operations** – Sales are strong, but labor costs are increased due to wage law changes
 - **Commission Sales** – Improving toward year-end, though \$18,000 below last year; still \$81,000 ahead of budget
 - **For Sale by Owner Income** – Up \$14,000 vs. last year, \$45,000 short of budget
 - **Site Rental Income (Camping)** – Up \$13,000 vs. last year, \$47,000 short of budget with one month left.

Overall: Despite higher expenses in several areas, SPWT's financial position remains solid as we head into the final month of the fiscal year.

Lake Monterey Golf Course (LMGC)

- **Operations Cash:** Up \$95,000 compared to last year
- **Net Income:** Slightly lower, down \$1,100 from last year
- **Gross Income:** Up \$19,000 for August and \$34,000 year-to-date

Revenue Highlights:

- **Golf Memberships and Green Fees** – Continued growth
- **Food Sales** – Stable and up \$7,800 over budget
- **Beer & Wine Sales** – Strong performance, exceeding budget by \$14,000

Expense Notes:

- **Salaries** increased slightly due to changes in labor laws.
- **Repairs & Maintenance** are higher than last year, but still \$16,000 under budget. Ongoing irrigation system repairs remain a major capital priority for next year.

Looking Ahead: The Finance Committee and Board of Directors are considering whether to make any repayment to Sandy Pines this year. This decision will depend on the funding needs for the whole irrigation system replacement, pending receipt of quotes.

Overall: LMGC has had a strong year and is well-positioned to address upcoming capital priorities.

System Transition Update

We're excited to share that the new Northstar Point-of-Sale and Accounting Software will go live on October 1, 2025.

Here's what to expect:

- **Monthly Statements:** Members will now receive a monthly statement/invoice by email, regardless of balance due.
 - Paper statements will be available upon request from the Membership Office.
 - Email statements can be saved and printed directly at home.
- **Address Verification:** Please log in to your member portal and confirm your address to ensure accuracy across both systems.
- **Transition Day:** On October 1, the cut-over will happen at midnight. No payments will be processed that day; however, you will receive your statement from the old system, and fees will be applied in the new system.
- **Benefits:** Although there will be some adjustments during the transition, the new system will significantly enhance efficiency for both members and staff.

Thank you in advance for your patience as staff work through this transition. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions—we'll do our best to assist you.

Thank you for your support throughout the summer. We wish you safe travels to your winter homes and look forward to keeping you updated through the off-season.

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RECREATION NEWS

BY ABBY GREENFIELD Abby@SandyPines.com

It's hard to believe we're already entering October! As we close out another amazing season at Sandy Pines, we've got one last event on deck to help us go out with a smile!

Fall Fest – Saturday, October 4 | 1–3 PM | Phase 1 Pavilion

Let's wrap up the season with one more afternoon of fun at our annual Fall Fest! Weather permitting, we'll be outside on the grass near the Phase 1 Pavilion with plenty of games and activities for all ages. Expect rock painting, face painting, lawn games, and more fall-themed fun.

Interested in helping out? We love volunteers! Please email Abby@SandyPines.com if you'd like to lend a hand. Volunteers should plan to arrive 30 minutes early to help set up.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Summer may have just wrapped up, but planning for 2026 is already underway! We're always on the lookout for new ideas, creative events, and ways to keep things fresh. If you have a fun event suggestion or would love to see a specific activity on the calendar, don't hesitate to reach out.

We're especially looking for adult volunteers interested in helping lead or organize adult-focused programming. Want to host a weekly game night? Lead a crafting group? Let's talk!

Rec Staff & Lifeguard Hiring Info

We often get asked, "When can I apply for Rec Staff?" Applications are available year-round online at the Careers page and can be submitted anytime. Interviews typically begin in March.

- Rec Staff hiring begins at age 15.
- Lifeguards must be 16+ and certified.
- Sandy Pines will pay for your lifeguard certification after completing your first season on staff!
- We are also in need of adult lifeguards to help us finish out the summer season—if you or someone you know is interested, we'd love to have you.

Thank you for a wonderful season—we can't wait to see you back next year, with even more events, activities, and memories to come!

COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL Ian@SandyPines.com

Advertising Opportunities for 2026

Looking to promote your business to a highly engaged and loyal audience? Sandy Pines offers a variety of advertising opportunities across our communication platforms, including:

- Monthly Footprints Magazine
- Member E-News
- Weekly Weekend Flyer (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

These channels are a great way to reach thousands of members, guests, and visitors every week during the season.

Need help creating your ad? No problem! We're happy to assist with layout and design for those who don't have in-house creative support.

To learn more or get started, email: Communications@SandyPines.com

2026 Wall Calendar Photo Submissions

We're putting the finishing touches on our 2026 Wall Calendar, and we're still looking for a few more great photos to feature! Send us your best photos that showcase the beauty and joy of life at Sandy Pines. Whether it's a quiet moment on the lake, a lively holiday event, or a stunning sunset, we want to see it!

How to Submit:

Email your photo(s) to Communications@SandyPines.com with the subject line "2026 Calendar Photo." Be sure to include your name, site number, and the month you think your photo best represents.

If your photo is selected, you'll receive a FREE copy of the calendar!

And if you've taken great pictures at any recent park events or

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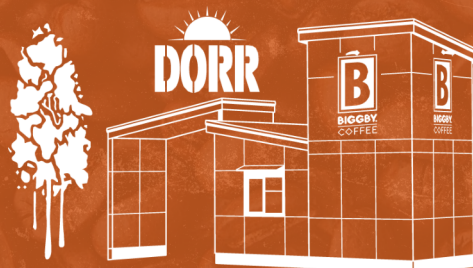
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Communications / Continued From Page 6

activities, we'd love to see those too!

2026 Event Calendar Rollout

We're excited to announce that events for the 2026 season are being added to the online calendar daily! A huge thank you to Abby, our Recreation Manager, for all her hard work in building next year's schedule.

You can view the updated calendar anytime at: www.sandypines.com/calendar

Keep checking back—we're adding more fun every week!

We Want Your Feedback

Your input matters. In the coming weeks, we'll be launching department-specific and Capital Investment surveys to gather your feedback on this past season and your ideas for the future.

These surveys help us improve communication, refine events, enhance amenities, and serve you better in 2026 and beyond!

Please keep an eye on your Member E-News and Facebook for links to participate!

How to Stay Connected During the Off-Season

Just because the gates close doesn't mean the conversation ends! Here's how to stay in the loop all winter long:

- Member E-News – Sent roughly every other Friday during the off-season with updates, announcements, and more. Subscribe at: <http://sandypines.com/e-news>
- Facebook – Follow our official Facebook page for timely updates, photos, reminders, sales listings, and more: <https://www.facebook.com/SandyPinesWildernessTrails>
- YouTube – Watch live-streamed Board Meetings, Town Halls, and fun event recaps. Subscribe at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/sandypineswt/videos>

Stay Proactive and Engaged!

The off-season is the perfect time to get ahead for 2026! Whether you're preparing your site, submitting event ideas, or staying informed through our digital channels—we're here to help every step of the way.

Have a question? Message us on Facebook or email Communications@SandyPines.com, and we'll respond by the next business day.

Thank You

Thank you for being a vital part of the Sandy Pines community. Your continued engagement, feedback, and enthusiasm help make this place so special.

We look forward to hearing from you and bringing you even more great experiences in 2026.

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BY DALE YODER Dale@SandyPines.com

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported our food service locations this season! Whether you grabbed goodies at the Country Store, enjoyed a meal at the Country Café, or cooled off with ice cream at the Dairy Dip, we truly appreciate you.

PARK INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JIM BUCHANAN Inspector@SandyPines.com

As we wrap up another Blessed Season here at Sandy Pines, We don't want to move forward without Thanking You.

THANK YOU to All of our Contractors for helping our Department Serve our Members, we couldn't do our job without you.

And **THANK YOU** to our Members for asking the questions and then getting your paperwork in to us.

Just a Few reminders as we come into the "OFF SEASON"

1. Leaves and debris- Please don't Blow leaves into the Lake, your neighbor's lot, or the Green Space.
2. Docks - They can be in the Green Space as long as they are at least 10' back from the steel marker post with the stake numbers on them and horizontal with the beach. Also please come into the office for a waterproof Owners' info tag to affix to your dock so we can contact the owner if needed.
3. Permitted Work- Other than Trees ALL PERMITTED WORK MUST be completed by Thanksgiving weekend. No permitted work can be done the months of December, January and February. Please call us if you have any questions. Please get ANY and ALL Permit requests in ASAP as we are on limited hours at our office.
4. Work can resume the week of March 9th, 2026.

Have a Very Blessed Off-Season

Your Building Staff Jim, Steve & Cindy

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



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SECURITY NEWS

BY PAUL SCHAAF Paul@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

August 2025 Call Stats

In July 2025, Public Safety responded to 129 calls for service. The breakdown of the calls are:

Accident.....	7
Alcohol.....	3
Animal Complaint	5
Assist.....	24
Conduct Violation	5
Curfew	1
Damage to Property	1
Dispute	2
Harassment	5
Hazardous Condition	1
Illegal Entry.....	6
Lost Child.....	2
Lost/Found.....	15
Medical	10
Missing Person	3
Noise	4

Open Door.....	15
Suspicious Situation	11
Theft	3
Traffic.....	4
Tree Down	2
Trespass.....	1
Vandalism	2

Hands Free

In 2023, Michigan enacted a law making it illegal to use a mobile device while driving. That state law is also enforced at Sandy Pines. The hands-free law includes holding or supporting a phone with any part of the body. This applies to phone calls, texting, or any handling of a mobile device. Please drive safely and keep your phone down.

Golf Cart

Please remember that your golf cart needs to be registered with the Public Safety Office. If you get a new cart or replace an old cart, please bring it to the office to update your records. The carts need to have a silver VIN sticker on the steering shaft from Public Safety when it's registered. This helps us ensure that the proper carts are in the park.

SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND Steve@SandyPines.com

The Lake

I have written previous articles emphasizing how reliant and dependent we are on Mother Nature and its effects on the lake. This year is no exception with bright sunny days, warm temperatures, and drought, which cause lake levels/elevation to trend downward. At various meetings and on social media, I hear comments that "the lake has never had so many weeds" nor been as low as it is now. It is common from June to September/or fall rains, for the lake levels to decrease. This has been the trend for the past 54 years. The true answer to "What are you going to do?" is to pump water into the lake and wait for Mother Nature to raise the lake level. Lake pumps cannot keep up with drought conditions. Adding additional lake pumps may have a minimal effect on the elevation of the lake. The lake is not a container in which we can seal the bottom and put a cap on top. Evaporation and saturation are constant.

The lake has experienced lower levels than its present state, and I have seen years in which the weeds were far worse and lying on top of the surface of the water. Recent reviews of weed conditions showed most weeds about 2' below the surface of the water.

Increased sunlight, warm water, and lower water levels increase the depth of sunlight to weeds, Zebra Mussels, and their ability to clean up/filter, which has an impact on the lake.

Weed harvesters were utilized in the past. The concern was breaking off weeds that go to the bottom of the lake and produce additional weeds. Also, the concern of cutting the stem of the weed and the terminal bud, and having several offshoots from the stem, creates additional weed cover on the surface. The east end of the lake had a boat launch years ago. The cement from the old boat launch is most likely still under the dirt. The boat launch was abandoned because of the flow of weeds and debris to the east end of the lake.

The park uses Professional Lake management to manage weed growth and provide facts about what weeds are growing, what weeds are invasive, and the plan to treat. Chemicals are used to combat the growth of unwanted weeds. Restrictions and

Continued on Page 9

hellos are better in
person. that's why
we're local.

simple human sense



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Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Safety News/ Continued From Page 8

regulations are present for lake treatment, and we also must leave habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Lake Monterey has an invasive weed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, which can cross with native northern watermilfoil. The result is hybridization, which can result in faster growth rates, may be resistant to herbicides, and difficult to visually distinguish from the native species without using molecular genetic analysis. Hybrid offspring can be more resilient and have more vigor than their invasive parent, Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Perception varies for everyone as to what each of us has experienced regarding weeds, the elevation of the lake, and what is low. The membership changes and new members have not seen fluctuations; it appears that lake levels and weeds are something new. Lake levels trend each year and start to decrease in June/July until fall/winter when precipitation increases. The lowest elevations of the lake occurred in 1999 when the elevation of the lake was down 60".

Precipitation 1999 from January to September was 27.82 in Grand Rapids.

This year, West Michigan had 15 days of temperatures above 90 degrees as of August 25th. As of August 25, we have had 18.7" of rainfall, which is ranked 2nd for the lowest precipitation since 1903. (<https://www.extremeweatherwatch.com/cities/grand-rapids/most-yearly-precipitation>). Average annual rainfall for Hopkins, Michigan, is 35-40 inches. Although we have had one of the worst years for precipitation, the lake levels have been mitigated with lake pumps. Lake pumps can only try to slow the decrease in lake elevation during drought conditions.



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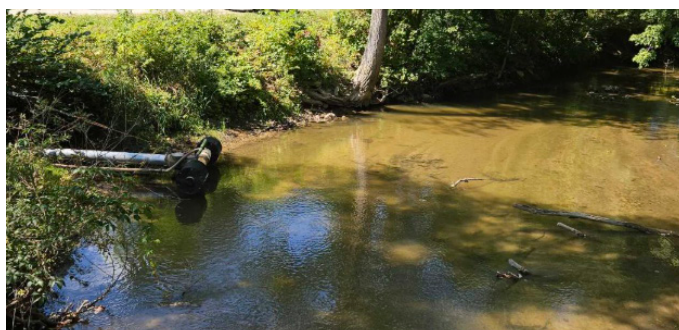
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Sandy Pines is not the only entity experiencing low water levels. Rabbit River, which is just north of Sandy Pines (138th and 26th St.) is very shallow with the river showing sand bars above the water surface.



Rabbit River levels are low



Lake Pump intake is about 1 foot above the surface of the water

In 2019, a lake study was conducted. Concerns of phosphorus levels, lawn fertilizer with high levels of phosphorus, invasive weeds, erosion stabilization, fishery habitat, algae levels, nutrient and sediment loads.

Some of the Suggestions

- 1) Avoid the use of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus (P). P is the main nutrient required for aquatic plant and algae growth, and plants grow in excess when P is in excess abundant.
- 2) Preserve riparian vegetation buffers around the Woods (such as those that consist of Cattails, Bulrushes), since they act as a filter to catch nutrients and pollutants that occur on land and may run off into the lake. Allow trees to grow near the shoreline for erosion control, but be sure to rake away leaves in the fall. Do not rake leaves into the lake, and dispose of leaves as yard waste.
- 3) Do not burn leaves near the lake shoreline since the ash is a high source of Phosphate.
- 4) Do not blow/discard leaves into the lake.
- 5) Never dump any solvents, chemicals, or debris into the lake.
- 6) Monterey Lake is facing significant issues that degrade water quality over time, including nutrients and sediments from surrounding shoreline erosion that lead to a decline in lake health.

In conclusion, the lake level has decreased this season. We had some warm weather and a lot of sunlight in which the weeds grew well. We are in a period of drought. Maintaining the lake level is

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Safety News / Continued From Page 9

not under our full control. Environmental factors have an impact. The lake pumps are running. Fall/winter rainfall usually corrects the lake level for the next season.

Your part in maintaining the lake is to refrain from blowing your leaves in the lake, and refrain from using fertilizer along the edge of the lake.

Zebra Mussels

Lake Monterey has an invasive species of Zebra Mussels within our lake. Most likely brought in from another lake by a watercraft that was infested. Once within the aquatic area of a lake, it is nearly impossible to eradicate the Zebra Mussels. Zebra Mussel veligers are microscopic in the larval stage and are not visible to the naked eye. Watercraft live wells, motors, or water within boats that have been at a lake with the invasive species can easily be transported to other lakes or rivers without the watercraft knowing of the hitchhikers. Most likely the way in which Monterey Lake acquired the species.

Zebra mussels are filter feeders meaning they intake microorganisms by pumping water through their gills, capturing the food, and expelling waste called pseudofeces. Pseudofeces can cause green toxic algae blooms. They can filter up to 2 liters of water per day. An incredible amount for a species less than 5 cm in length. As a result, water becomes clearer, allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper depths, promoting and additional growth of plants, including invasive plants and increasing the temperature of the lake. Decomposition of the increased plant life can cause a reduced amount of oxygen in the lake.

Native mussels mature in about 3-5 years. Zebra Mussels mature in a year. Zebra Mussels can produce over a million eggs in one year however most do not survive to maturity. They do present issues to other species and can overcrowd the native species and cause a decline in other mussels.

Invasive filter feeders change the ecosystem of a lake. Changing and removing food sources influences larval fish native species that rely on Phytoplankton and zooplankton as food sources. Potential for decline/disruption in fish and other native species occurs.

Other than competing with native species, Zebra Mussels can be a nuisance in attaching watercraft, docks, or any other material suspended in the water. They colonize in areas and can be difficult to remove from surfaces. For watercraft left in the water for long period of time they can attach inside motors and clog engine systems.

Zebra Mussels can live out of water for five days. If using your watercraft at other lakes please drain the water from live wells, ballasts, binge pump areas and your motor so you are not aiding in the Zebra Mussel transport to or from our lake. The only way

to prevent spreading is to clean, dry and drain your boat. Some organizations ask that you drain, dry and clean your watercraft and do not go to other bodies of water for 21 days.

They have a few predators such as freshwater drum, Yellow Perch, Small Mouth Bass, muskrats, and crayfish. Freshwater Drum and crayfish have the largest impact on Zebra Mussel populations. No single predator or combination has eradicated Zebra Mussels.

Zebra Mussels have been in some bodies of water for over 30 years and research is still ongoing with a lot of unanswered questions about their impact on the ecosystem and other species. At present they are in Lake Monterey and their impact in the future is unknown.

Evaporation of Lake Water & Calculations

In recent board meeting the figure of 3,000,000 gallons of water evaporates from the lake each day. Three million gallons of water. That's a lot of water. We have four lake pumps trying to replenish the lake. These lake pumps pump between 400 to 600 gallons of water per minute or a best combined average effort of 2,000 gallons a minute. There are 1,440 minutes in a day. 2,000 gallons of water x 1,440 minutes = 2,880,000 gallons pumped in a day.

With the assistance of the internet, you can find various equations of complex or simple mathematical equations to determine evaporation in a lake such as the Penman equation or the Dalton equation. Rather than using complex algorithms, the use of a web site is a much more pleasant use of calculation.

<https://www.omnicalculator.com/physics/evaporation-rate>

Having some knowledge of the lake assists in calculation. Surface area of the lake is 240 acres at an elevation of 672', present temperature, wind speed and humidity the approximate loss from evaporation can be determined. The evaporative loss can be surprising as looking over the lake it appears that nothing is happening, but a great amount of water is lost from the lake every day.

Entering the calculation of 240 acres of surface water, a wind speed of 3 mph, an air temperature of 85 degrees, and an average Michigan summer humidity of 55% produces a loss of about 3,632,412 gallons of water in our lake each day. As the air temperatures rise, a greater loss occurs. A calculated loss is very enlightening.

Evaporation is not the only loss of water. Seepage of water from the bottom of the lake is also constant. Natural lakes that have been in existence for long periods of time have developed sediment and has closed pores. Lake bottoms and the permeability of various soils determine the seepage. Sand and gravel are more permeable than clay or bedrock.



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CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES

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Hello Sandy Piners! What a beautiful warm September we have had, and now we welcome this gorgeous October with the leaves changing and beautiful scenery. We are looking forward to Fall Fest on Saturday October 4th!

2026 camping reservations open on Monday, October 6th at 1:00pm. Please tell your friends and family!

Campsites costs are \$80-\$90 per night

Cabin costs are \$125-\$140 per night

Trailer costs are \$190-\$275 per night

If you have not checked out our new Camper Alerts feature on sandypines.com please do so! You will stay up to date on current camping promotions, deals, last minute cancellations, and more.

Sandy Pines offers a variety of accommodations, ensuring that every guest can find the perfect fit for their camping experience. They can easily reserve a campsite, rustic cabin, or park model trailer online through our website. With flexible dates and a range of options, booking your stay is quick and simple.

Sandy Pines offers spacious campsites designed for traditional camping. Whether you're bringing your own tent or RV, these sites provide the perfect base for outdoor adventures and many memories.

SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON

Kent@SandyPines.com

As the Season Winds Down

The end of the season always brings mixed emotions. While it's a little disappointing to prepare our units for winter and say goodbye to another summer, fall at Sandy Pines is truly something special. The changing colors, crisp mornings, and peaceful atmosphere make this a season you don't want to miss.

Although the gates may quiet down, our Sales Team is here year-round to serve you. The off-season is a busy time for us as we review the past year, improve our processes, and prepare for an even better season ahead. We continue to receive a steady stream of calls and emails from families eager to learn more about the park, and it's exciting to see such strong interest in our community.

This past season was an amazing one for sales, and we are deeply thankful to all of the new members who chose Sandy Pines as their place to make memories. As we look forward, we encourage everyone to take a few minutes to complete the annual survey put together by our Communications Team. Your feedback is vital in helping us grow, improve, and make each year better than the last.

If you know friends or family who are considering joining, now is a great time to connect them with us — we have several fantastic listings available. And if you're thinking about selling, consider letting our team go to work for you.

From all of us on the Sales Team, thank you for making this year one to remember. We look forward to serving you in the months ahead and welcoming you back next spring.

If you're looking for a more comfortable camping experience, Sandy Pines rustic cabins provide the ideal blend of outdoor charm and indoor convenience. These cozy cabins feature all the essentials including comfortable sleeping arrangements, lighting, air conditioning, and a minifridge. The cabins are perfect for those who want to enjoy the camping experience without sacrificing too much comfort.

For those seeking an even more comfortable stay, Sandy Pines park model trailers offer a fantastic option. These fully equipped trailers include modern amenities such as air conditioning, and full kitchen and living area, ensuring that your stay is both comfortable and convenient. Park model trailers are perfect for families who want to enjoy all the benefits of camping with the added comfort of home.

Don't miss out on fall camping before the season ends! You won't want your friends and family to miss out on the chance to experience the beautiful fall scenery at Sandy Pines. We have a 10% discount for associate members and a 10% military discount for those who are currently serving or have served in the military. Thank you for your service! To apply these discounts, please contact the camping department directly. You can make reservations via our website at www.SandyPines.com, or give me a call at 616-896-8315 ext. 103 - I'd be happy to assist you. See you soon!

LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY DAVID INGLES

David@GolfLMGC.com

My, how the season has flown by! However, don't put the clubs away just yet. Fall golf is some of the best golf of the year, and we will be open and ready to finish the year strong.

As we get into late October, there will be times when the pro shop will be closed but the course is open. If the clubhouse is locked, please use the drop box by the main doors to pay for your golf.

We are hoping to see you this fall!

Facebook and Instagram

If you are not following us on social media, what are you waiting for? Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and see everything that is happening here at Lake Monterey. We are posting new information and reminders daily. It is a great way to keep tabs on everything golf here at the course.

Preparing For 2026

We have already begun work on the 13th hole, and we are excited for this fall when we will have more time to dedicate to this project.

As you have seen, when you come into the clubhouse, we are now asking everyone to scan their membership cards. Next season, if you do not have your card, you may be charged the public rate. Please make sure you bring your card with you, and it is active.

We have scheduled two parties here at the course for next year. With the success of our '80s party, we are going to do a party in May and another one in August. We are still working on the themes, but we are sure you will enjoy both of them.

We are excited and looking forward to seeing everyone!



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